

international health, development, and their continued commitment to combating hunger.

Monsanto, under Grant's leadership, proves that free enterprise is the most effective way to solve seemingly intractable problems like hunger in sub-Saharan Africa. Not only has Monsanto provided a sustainable food source for hundreds of millions of people, but they have given hope to people who have been denied a future for far too long.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hugh Grant and saying thank you to the entire Monsanto team. You put the power of innovation and enterprise to work for the world's poorest peoples and demonstrate true American compassion.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today, along with my other colleagues, in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month. This month marks the fourth anniversary of officially recognizing Caribbean American Heritage Month. And I want to applaud you, Madam Speaker, the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, for introducing the legislation and getting it passed in February of 2006. President Bush officially proclaimed it for the very first time in June of that year.

The efforts to get us to that point began long before, though, with the Institute for Caribbean Studies, which started observing June as Caribbean American Heritage Month in 1999. So I want to also take this opportunity to applaud the work and leadership of its president, Dr. Claire Nelson, of Jamaican heritage.

I also want to recognize the Carib News Foundation for its work over the years to bring Caribbean and United States leaders together to discuss issues of common interest over the past 14 years. They filled an important gap.

Recent attempts to officially bridge this gap began in 1997, when President Clinton traveled to Barbados where the Bridgetown Declaration was crafted. This important declaration affirmed our common resolve to fight crime, vi-

olence, corruption, drug and illegal drug trafficking while, as President Clinton said, "promoting open and fair trade, protecting the environment, strengthening education, spreading telecommunications, and helping Caribbean countries diversify their economies and become more competitive as well."

Upon his return, he submitted the Caribbean Basin Trade Enhancement Act, which Congress passed. The cooperation was further affirmed with the historic meetings held in June of 2007 between the heads of Caribbean governments and the Bush-Cheney administration and this Congress. This commitment was renewed and reinvigorated at the Summit of the Americas held in the Caribbean nations of Trinidad and Tobago in April of this year with the active participation and leadership of our President, Barack Obama, who set a new tone for our relationship with the region.

But the relationship has even predated the birth of this Nation. In 1751, our very first President, George Washington, reported to have had family connections in Barbados, traveled there with his brother for a health-related matter in November of 1751. They stayed 2 months, and he is said to have been enchanted by the island and the Caribbean.

Over the years, many Congressional Black Caucus members have worked tirelessly to raise awareness and keep us focused and invested in ongoing affairs in the Caribbean. We have done this through Chairman RANGEL's efforts with the Caribbean Basin legislation and other initiatives, Congresswoman WATERS, who worked so hard to save the banana industry and who was then Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. She and I traveled to Barbados in 1997 for that historic meeting.

I also want to recognize the special work done by Congressman DONALD PAYNE, who is the founding Chair of the Friends of the Caribbean Caucus, and Congressman KENDRICK MEEK, Congressman GREGORY MEEKS, and of course Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE. But, truly, all of the Congressional Black Caucus members are champions of the causes of the Caribbean.

Last year, one of our great achievements, led by Congressman DONALD PAYNE and you, Madam Speaker, Congresswoman LEE, in one of those great efforts, PEPFAR was extended to all of the Caribbean for the very first time. Two months ago, health ministers and CARICOM leaders met to draft the 5-year plan which would build on the PANCAP, the Pan Caribbean Partnership, to address HIV and AIDS in this region. The Shirley Chisholm United States Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2009, introduced, again, by Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman and Madam Speaker LEE, is now working its way through Congress. It will help to build a stronger Caribbean workforce and promote greater

collaboration between the United States and the Caribbean, as well as a sharing of values and culture.

Madam Speaker, I do have a few colleagues here with me this evening, and I would like to yield some time to them so that they may bring some remarks about the special month that we're celebrating in which we are recognizing the contributions of people from the Caribbean to the United States.

So at this time, I will yield such time as she might consume to Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. I would like to thank the gentlelady for yielding. And I would like to associate myself with your comments, your remarks, your historical context for this Congressional Black Caucus' hour commemorating Caribbean American History Month. I want to thank you, my colleague, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, for all of your work and advocacy being part of the U.S. Caribbean, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Caribbean American Heritage Month. I thank my friend, the gentlelady from California, Ms. BARBARA LEE, for her very hard work and her enduring commitment to the people of the CARICOM region and for ensuring that every June we bring recognition to the many contributions made by Caribbean Americans and people of Caribbean descent, and the issues facing the nations of CARICOM and the Caribbean American Diaspora.

□ 2000

I have the honor of representing New York's 11th Congressional District, previously represented, in part, by Shirley Chisholm, the first African American Member of Congress and the child of Caribbean American immigrants from Barbados and Guiana.

Other prominent Caribbean Americans that we may be aware of or have known throughout our history includes such luminaries as Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable, the founder of Chicago; Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, who was born in Nevis; actor and social activist Harry Belafonte; revolutionary Marcus Garvey; noted journalist Gwen Ifill; Hazel Scott, the first woman of color to have her own television show; Malcolm X, revolutionary; our own Attorney General Eric Holder; former Secretary of State Colin Powell; super model Tyson Beckford; athlete and coach Patrick Ewing; boxer and athlete Lenox Lewis; and Wyclef Jean, performer and philanthropist. And the list goes on and on.

As a child of Jamaican immigrants, I have been an outspoken advocate for Caribbean Americans and Caribbean issues and concerns my entire public life and proudly carry forth my district's rich Caribbean heritage. The success of the Caribbean immigrant and their Caribbean American descendants has been evidenced in just about every field of endeavor.

While Caribbean Americans have made great strides and very historic contributions to the prosperity and strengthening of our Nation, there are still lingering issues that adversely affect Caribbean Americans in the United States. Caribbean immigrants often have very little money or access to resources when making their transition to the United States, making them vulnerable targets of immigration fraud. I have introduced H.R. 1992, the Immigration Fraud Prevention Act of 2009, making it a Federal crime to willfully misrepresent the immigration process through fraud and false representation.

I have also introduced H.R. 2071, which directs the Secretary of Commerce to include Caribbean descendants as an option on census questionnaires. I believe that this will bring recognition to the broad diversity of Caribbean natives and descendants that call our country home and ensure an accurate count and proper representation and resource.

I was also pleased this year to be present at the Summit of the Americas along with our own President Barack Obama earlier this year. That summit was the beginning of what I know will be an enduring commitment to a mutually beneficial relationship with our "third border." Our Nation's third border, shared with the CARICOM community, links not only families, not only travel and industry, but I believe the security of our own United States and our island-nation neighbors. In 2007 a joint report by the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime and the World Bank linked some of the rising crime rates in Caribbean nations to an increase in drug transshipment. In the previous Congress, I introduced H. Res. 1504, which calls for increased cooperation between the United States and Caribbean officials to combat this problem. Last week I stood proudly on this floor to express my support for provisions which were in H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2009, which added the Caribbean community, or CARICOM, to the Merida Initiative. I also want to commend the Honorable BARBARA LEE for her work in establishing the Shirley A. Chisholm Educational Exchange Program authorized within the bill. These provisions promote security and education within the CARICOM region, fostering social and economic development abroad and keeping all of us safe here at home.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here, a descendant of Caribbean immigrants, able to stand in the House of Representatives' second generation representing a constituency that is the diaspora of the Caribbean, and I'm proud that we here in the U.S. Capitol take this time to commemorate the very accomplishments, the binding of our nations and our people, in making sure that we strengthen and build prosperity here in the United States and share that good wealth and democracy with the region from whence so many have come.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman CLARKE, for your remarks this evening. And thank you, most of all, though, for your leadership on behalf of the Caribbean countries. We appreciate the work that you do both on your committee, the subcommittee that you Chair on Homeland Security, and in all of the work that addresses issues in the Caribbean. Thank you for joining us this evening.

I would like now to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and allow me to acknowledge as well the Congressional Black Caucus for the collective effort that they have made and thank our present chairwoman for the 2004 resolution, House Resolution 517, that ultimately was proclaimed by the President of the United States. This is an enriching day and an opportunity for us to emphasize the vastness of diversity that is in this country, and I stand here as a Caribbean American proudly exercising and relishing in the history of my ancestry.

Let me also acknowledge the work that we have collectively done. As the ranking member on the Immigration Subcommittee, we have had a history of working for the issues of parity as it relates to the opportunities for Haitians to become statused here in the United States, as we have seen the Cubans also have this opportunity through what we call the "wet foot, dry foot" provision. We have worked unending to ensure that that parity comes about. And as we look forward into the comprehensive immigration reform debate, I hope that language from the Save America comprehensive immigration legislation that I authored will be part of the debate so that our reform will include all aspects of those who are seeking to be statused and particularly those from the Caribbean.

We have worked on issues that addressed the questions of many Caribbean leaders when there was massive deportation of individuals from the United States who had never been to the Caribbean, had never been to the countries of their birth, and therefore were coming and providing the need for extra resources by Caribbean leaders. This is paying attention to the issues of the Caribbean and recognizing that they are a vital ally to us. And that was recognized by the recent organization of the meeting in the Caribbean in Trinidad where many Caribbean nations came, and I believe the new relationship was cemented between this new President, this Congress, and the Caribbean leaders.

So as we speak about the greatness of Caribbean Americans, I want to emphasize that we should also be engaged with the Caribbean as our allies, as those who can participate with us in homeland security and securing the borders, as we look to Caribbean Americans who have made great strides here in this country.

Caribbean Americans are educators, linguists, actors, athletes, soldiers, politicians, economists, historians, activists, doctors, lawyers, and everyday men and women. There are those of us who enjoy the music of the Caribbean, and certainly one of our most famous poets and musicians is Bob Marley, whose reggae music continues to permeate the music channels and the ears of Americans. We are proud of the contributions of Caribbean Americans. Those like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; those like Timothy "Tim" Theodore Duncan; those like Garcelle Beauvais-Nilon; those like Sidney Poitier; those like Stokely Carmichael and Marcus Garvey; and, of course, Colin Powell, the former Secretary of State, a Caribbean American; certainly the Honorable Shirley Chisholm, who herself ran as an African American woman for President of the United States of America. Bold, unashamed of their roots and history, ready to make a difference, that is the character of Caribbean Americans and those who live in the Caribbean.

Let me also thank JOHN CONYERS, whom I worked with as we visited Haiti and went to see many of those who have been incarcerated because of the, if you will, inconsistency of leadership in Haiti. We are delighted to see President Preval leading out. We visited many who were political prisoners and worked with the then-Bush administration to try to secure their freedom. I want to continue to express my appreciation to Chairman CONYERS for the work that he has continuously done working with the Jubilee that we celebrated in Haiti when we traveled there together.

So there are many aspects of the Caribbean that we can celebrate. I'm here to celebrate the great connection that I have had the privilege of having. And I'm delighted to be joined on the floor of the House by Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN as well as Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE and Congressman DONALD PAYNE and the chairwoman, who is now serving as the Speaker pro tempore. We do this because we want to ensure that people realize how great America is, and it is only great because it relies upon the strength of those who come from different cultures and bring that wonderment to our wonderful Nation.

So I want to acknowledge the creation of the Institute of Caribbean Studies in 1994. I want to acknowledge the ad hoc Caribbean Council of Washington, D.C., that disbanded, and ICS takes over leadership of celebrating June as Caribbean American Heritage Month in Washington, D.C. This is just part of the history that was generated in the bill to make this the month that we celebrate Caribbean Heritage Month.

Finally, might I say proudly that I want to speak of my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson. My grandmother and grandfather were true sons and daughters at that time of the King and

Queen because Jamaica was then a colony of Great Britain. However, their dignity allowed them to know that Jamaica could be a free and democratic nation. And through the leadership of those in Jamaica who recognized that it could be a free nation, they secured their freedom, and what a celebratory time that was.

I want to acknowledge so many prime ministers, but former Prime Minister Manley, former Prime Minister Seaga, former Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, all great leaders that brought greatness to the Caribbean, and to acknowledge the present prime minister as he continues to work, to acknowledge the first woman Prime Minister as well that was in Jamaica for at least a time in the last 2 years. We know that she has been called with great love and affection Prime Minister Portia, but we respect the service that she has given.

My grandparents left Jamaica and went to work in Panama in the Panama Canal, and I had the privilege of going to the Panama Canal for a Homeland Security mission and seeing my grandfather's name listed as one of those who worked on the Panama Canal. As he came to the United States and then settled between South Carolina and Brooklyn, New York, to know that he was part of that wonderful tradition of history and heritage, the wonderful cuisine of oxtails and rice and peas and plantains and many other good things that we continue to enjoy culturally in my family that I raised my children on, that I was raised on, so that this nexus of knowing your roots is so very key.

So what I say to all who are listening, this Nation is valuable because it respects the culture of all of us. And today we salute Caribbean Americans, and I have been privileged and proud to have served in the United States Congress with that history but also to work on a number of issues helping to make their land, their nation, better and creating a better partnership between the United States and Caribbean.

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Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE, and thank you for your hard work, your service, and your support for all issues relating to the Caribbean. I know you are very proud of your Jamaican heritage because you speak of it very often. Thank you.

At this time I would like to yield such time as he might consume to the founding Chair of the Friends of the Caribbean Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you. Let me commend the Congressional Black Caucus and its chairperson, leader this evening, BARBARA LEE from California, for the outstanding job that she is doing as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. As the caucus moves for-

ward, being the conscience of the Congress, let me also commend Representative FUDGE, who is from the great State of Ohio, who continues to lead the Special Orders on our evenings, and of course our Caribbean queen, Delegate DONNA CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, who, as you know, is our representative from the U.S. Virgin Islands. Not only is she an expert on the Caribbean but, as we all know, she is an internist, a physician and has been very, very helpful as we move forward in very difficult health care reform. Her input is invaluable. I also want to commend her for the recent involvement in a documentary about the relationship between St. Croix and Puerto Rico that went through the history of the sugarcane industry back at the turn of the century in the late 1800s, early 1900s and the number of Puerto Ricans who came to St. Croix to work there. This was shown last weekend, will be shown in New York, and has received many praises for the interesting history that it brings about.

Let me just say that it's a pleasure to be here—as chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health but also as Chair of the Caribbean Caucus, the bipartisan caucus that we have here—to kind of expand our relationship with the Caribbean. This Caribbean American Heritage Month is well deserved. It's recognizing the diversity and success of people from the Caribbean. You've heard other speakers talk about the many people from the Caribbean who have been so outstanding. The achievements and impacts made from Caribbean people have continually made a positive contribution to the well-being of American society. We could go back to our beginning with Alexander Hamilton, who came from St. Kitts, our first Secretary of the Treasury. Secretary Colin Powell is from the Caribbean as well as Cicely Tyson, W.E.B. DuBois, James Weldon Johnson, Malcolm X, Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, and, in my own district, two people that I might talk about here, Antoinette K. Ellis-Williams and Dr. Claire Nelson. Dr. Claire Nelson, the founder and president of the Institute of Caribbean Studies, is known for her leadership in making Caribbean Americans heard. I am proud to say I work with her on a regular basis, as many of us do; and we admire her and the great work that she does. We just had the opportunity to be with her last week, and we are extremely pleased at the outstanding work that the institute is doing. The second person that I mentioned, Dr. Antoinette K. Ellis-Williams, a leader in my congressional district, currently serves as president for the Essex Valley Health Care and serves on the board of East Orange General Hospital. She is a proactive member of the Caribbean Medical Mission, a nonprofit organization of doctors, nurses, health care workers, engineers and other professionals who give back to the community through their services. She is a

founder and director of the Statewide Female Leadership Development Institute and Research Center at the New Jersey City Institute.

The Caribbean community's presence also plays a wide role in our elections, especially in my district, where the greater settlement of many people from the Caribbean in East Orange, Irvington and Newark make their voices heard. In past elections we have seen many people from the Caribbean community educate fellow Caribbean Americans about the U.S. political process and encourage their participation in the democratic process.

In recognizing June as Caribbean month, in my work with the caucus, this Congress has continually focused on enhancing relationships between the United States and the Caribbean states by reviewing proposals and pending legislation that have a direct impact on the Caribbean. I believe that by facilitating an ongoing dialogue, we can continue to recognize the Caribbean as America's third border for trade, for political stability, for the fight against drug trafficking and for economic development. We need to remember that the Caribbean is not just a place for vacationing, but it's a place in need of economic development. With the current open trade regime, the challenge for the Caribbean is to quickly develop high productivity sectors that could drive the region's development. We know that the same problems that have stricken us in the U.S. have stricken the Caribbean. HIV and AIDS has become a problem, but we're very pleased that the PEPFAR program now has been expanded to 14 Caribbean countries. In 2005 an estimated 300,000 adults and children in the Caribbean were reported living with HIV, making it the leading cause of death among adults aged 15 to 44. We know that in Haiti, life expectancy has also been impacted tremendously by HIV and AIDS.

However, like I said, we have a tremendous relationship with our friends in the Caribbean. There are several problems that we need to help them with.

Deportation. As you know, in 1996 the U.S. law changed that anyone convicted of an offense had to face deportation from the United States; and as a result, many of these small nation countries have had to absorb persons who may have come to the United States as infants but have engaged in crime and now are sent back 20, 30, 40 years later as hardened criminals; and many of the countries in the Caribbean are having a difficult time dealing with these deportees. Another problem that we see is with the drug trafficking in Mexico. We're finding that they are pushing drug trafficking into the Caribbean, and we need to assist the Caribbean in fighting this and give them assistance with law enforcement, training and Coast Guard assistance. But we are very proud of many of the Haitians, as I mentioned. Track and field is something that they have excelled in. I

recall when I was running back in the early fifties, George Rhoden was a quarter miler who won the gold medal in the Helsinki Olympics. George Rhoden and many other Jamaicans came up and went to Morgan State University. At the Penn Relays, these Jamaicans in the late forties and early fifties started to get recognition. And we know that in the Beijing Olympics, Usain Bolt, at 20, 21 years old, won the 100 meters and the 200 meters. He was one of the youngest persons to ever win those events, and the first person since Mr. Lewis from New Jersey to win both sprints in the Olympics. We have had many outstanding people that started politics in New York, Hulan Jack, way back, a fellow from St. Lucia. He was born in 1905, moved up to New York, a high school dropout, went to work for a company, and worked his way up from a janitor to become a vice president of the firm. He became active in politics, and he became a New York City Democratic political leader, loyal to the Tammany Hall operation, which was run then by a fellow named Carmine De Sapio. But in 1940 Hulan Jack won seven straight elections to the New York State Assembly, representing his Harlem district. And in 1953, Hulan Jack was elected to borough president of Manhattan, becoming the first African American to hold the post. Elected more than a decade before the rise of big city black mayors in the sixties, Hulan Jack was the highest ranking African American municipal officer in the Nation. With an annual salary at that time of \$25,000, he was the highest paid black office holder in the country. He served as Manhattan Borough president for several terms; and because of his emerging strength, the powers that be interrupted his career, and he left office. But Hulan Jack showed that politics was something that many of our Caribbean folks brought to the leadership of politics in our country.

I'll just finally end with a person that we all admired so much and has been mentioned earlier, Mr. Michael Manley, son of Norman Manley who served as the Prime Minister from '59 to '62. Michael Manley came in and became a three-term Prime Minister from '72 to '80 and '89 to '92, and he stepped down because of bad health. But just look at what Michael Manley did in Jamaica: Minimum wage for all workers; free education at secondary and university level, to the extent that space was available; instituted a literacy campaign; subdivision of what he called idle land to poor blacks, a formation of agrarian cooperatives where they worked together; price control on numerous staples to benefit the poor; reduction of the voting age to 18, thus increasing the black vote that then was able to continue to move forward. Listen to this—institutionalizing paid maternity leave and free milk to mothers. This was way back then in Jamaica where, as you know, we are still fighting to get family leave instituted in some of our States in the United

States of America 30 years later. A person like Mr. Michael Manley did such an outstanding job. So we're just pleased to celebrate this heritage month.

Once again, I certainly commend the gentlelady from the U.S. Virgin Islands for her leadership. I know that we will have a wonderful month as we celebrate the great attributes that people from the Caribbean have made not only to the United States, and Europe but of course the Caribbean.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman PAYNE, and thank you for your leadership both as our leader on Africa and global health as well as for all of the work that you've done with us in the Caribbean Caucus. Thank you for joining us this evening.

There are so many men and women of Caribbean American heritage who have contributed greatly, and so many events that have created ties that forever bind us together. President Obama in his proclamation this year, recognizing Caribbean American Heritage Month wrote, "Generations of immigrants have preserved the traditions of their homeland, and these traditions have defined our Nation's identity. This multi-lingual and multi-ethnic tradition has strengthened our social fabric and enriched the diversity of our Nation." He continues, "We are neighbors, partners and friends. We share the same aspirations for our children, and we strive for the very same freedoms. Together we can meet the common challenges we face."

I want to highlight several of those ties that bind. The birth of our Nation was supported by many Caribbean islands. Many do not know that the guns that were manned by the colonies during the American Revolution were gunpowdered by shipments from the Caribbean. While I believe most of it originated from St. Kitts, it was in the St. Croix Harbor in the then Danish West Indies where that gunpowder was loaded for shipment to the early colonies. In fact, it was also in that St. Croix Harbor, according to Robert Amandus Johnson in his book *Saint Croix 1770 to 1776*, that the first salute to the Stars and Stripes occurred in June of 1776.

□ 2030

And, of course, there is the direct relationship between Haiti and New Orleans, the latter of which in the beginning of the 19th century was considered a minor adjunct to the island which was then considered France's most valuable possession. It was only after Napoleon failed to reconquer the colony after the Africans had won their freedom and begun to establish their republic, only then did he decide to sell the Louisiana Territory. Many from the island of Saint Domingue who had fled that island became early inhabitants of New Orleans, contributing to the culture which is so recognized and renowned today.

There are also many U.S. Virgin Islanders today and in the past and from

the then Danish West Indies who have and who continue to contribute much to our Nation. I have spoken of many of them on several occasions, people like Casper Holstein. Congressman PAYNE mentioned Raymond Jones. Jon Lucien in music, Emile Griffith in boxing, Valmy Thomas, Horace Clarke and Tim Duncan in sports. There are many, many others.

One, Denmark Vesey, was born in St. Thomas and settled in Charleston, South Carolina, one of my favorite cities. He settled there in 1783. Seventeen years later he bought his freedom, and inspired, I am sure, by the 1733 African rebellion of St. John and the 1791 successful African rebellion in the Isle of Saint Domingue, now Haiti, he also planned a well-known slave uprising that was to have taken place in 1822, but was thwarted.

I would be truly remiss if I didn't speak briefly about Alexander Hamilton, who has been named several times this evening, who was born in Nevis, which is now a part of the independent nation of St. Kitts and Nevis, and who spent his formative years in St. Croix before coming to New York and eventually becoming, as Ron Chernow puts it, "Arguably the most important figure in American history who never attained the Presidency, but had a far more lasting impact than many who did."

Alexander Hamilton was credited with having been Washington's aide-de-camp, a Revolutionary War hero, a member of the Constitutional Convention, the leading author of the *Federalist Papers* and head of the Federalist Party, as well as the first Secretary of the Treasury, who forged our tax and budget systems. I bet he would have let us budget for prevention, as we are trying to do in health care reform. He started the Customs Service, the Coast Guard, and the Central Bank.

We are proud that he was a Virgin Islander, a Crucian, and we are seeking to make his family home, the site where his mother was buried, a part of the National Park Service. It carries the same name as his home in New York City, Grange.

There have been many Caribbean men and women who have served in Congress and in our Nation's administration.

As a woman of Caribbean decent and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Shirley Chisholm led the way for Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE and I. As a pioneering minority woman, her legacy holds the door open for many more African Americans and women.

Then there was Mervyn Dymally, Ron de Lugo, Melvin Evans, Victor Frazier, and all who have served as Resident Commissioners from Puerto Rico, as well as Members of Puerto Rican and Cuban heritage who are also Caribbean Americans and who serve today and have served in the past in this body.

Many more of our Nation's leaders trace their roots to the Caribbean, such

as our former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Attorney General Eric Holder, Assistant Secretary of the Interior-designee Wilma Lewis, and Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor. But there are many others.

We may look back as far as the period to 1900 to 1920, which marked the initiation of mass labor migration from the Caribbean to the United States and the formation of the first large Caribbean communities here in this country.

We should not forget World War I, when the recruitment of labor from the Caribbean became imperative. More than 100,000 Caribbean laborers were recruited for agricultural and tedious jobs as part of war labor. We should acknowledge the Caribbean men and women who served our country and those who continue to serve this country overseas in its conflicts today.

So I feel it has been an honor and privilege as a Caribbean American, whose roots lie in Cuba, Antigua, St. Kitts and the Danish Indies, now the Virgin Islands, to host this hour, where the Congressional Black Caucus has recognized and paid tribute to Caribbean American heritage.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today recognizing June as National Caribbean American Heritage month and to acknowledge the important contributions Caribbean-Americans have made to our Nation's history.

Let me begin by thanking Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands for anchoring tonight's CBC hour honoring Caribbean American Heritage Month.

I want to also thank Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS for their tremendous leadership on Caribbean Issues.

I would like to acknowledge The Institute for Caribbean Studies and all the other Caribbean-American organizations that worked to make Caribbean-American Heritage Month a great success.

As a long time supporter of the Caribbean and a frequent visitor to the region, I was very proud to see us celebrate this important commemorative month for the third year. Since the resolution's initial passage by Congress in 2006, the President has issued a proclamation recognizing Caribbean-American Heritage Month in June 2006, 2007, and 2008.

People of Caribbean heritage reside in every part of our country. Since 1820, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States.

Throughout U.S. history we have been fortunate to benefit from countless individuals of Caribbean descent, who have contributed to American government, politics, business, arts, education, and culture—including one of my personal heroes, the Honorable Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

Shirley Chisholm was a woman of Ba-jan and Guyanese descent, who never forgot her roots in the Caribbean. She was the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first woman to run for President.

My political involvement began as a volunteer during her historic presidential campaign in 1972. Through her mentorship, she

strengthened my interest in addressing issues of importance to the African Diaspora both here in the U.S. and abroad.

In addition to Shirley Chisholm, during Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we also recognize people like Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Wyclef Jean, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Harry Belafonte, Celia Cruz, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, and many others who helped shape this country.

Caribbean-American Heritage Month also provided an opportunity for us to strengthen our long-term partnership with CARICOM nations through greater dialogue and engagement. From disaster preparedness, education, and the campaign against HIV/AIDS and other health disparities, we share a number of mutual policy interests with our Caribbean neighbors.

For example, last year we were able to address these important issues regarding the Caribbean, through the Institute for Caribbean Studies' Caribbean-American Legislative Forum held on the Hill.

In addition, the Caribbean People International Collective Inc (CPIIC) held a roundtable discussion on health in the immigrant community. This event promoted the goals and ideals of National Caribbean-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NCAHAAD).

Most recently, last year's global rise in food costs keenly affected the people of the Caribbean, particularly our friends in Haiti. The crisis highlighted the need for reengagement and opened the door for innovative policy solutions.

Last year, CARICOM Heads of State held their New York Conference on the Caribbean under the theme "A 20/20 Vision", where they met with regional policy makers, the academic community, private sectors and financial institutions, as well as members of the Caribbean Diaspora to better integrate policy interests between the U.S. and the Caribbean.

National Caribbean American Heritage month promotes the importance of recognizing that our policies in the Caribbean affect us in the United States. Caribbean-American Heritage Month reminded us of the large and diverse constituencies of Caribbean-Americans in our nation and provided an opportunity to send a message of good will to the Caribbean community both here and abroad.

Caribbean American Heritage Month also provided an opportunity to celebrate and share in the rich culture of our Caribbean neighbors, through showcases of Caribbean art, festivals, concerts, and film.

Just as we commemorate the achievements of the many diverse communities in our nation, the United States Government should encourage all people to celebrate the rich history and diversity of Caribbean Americans.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the Caribbean-American community, and acknowledge their service to our society.

#### A LOT OF CZARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank you for rec-

ognizing me today. I have some stuff I think is kind of interesting to talk about.

Let's start with recently, while listening to the radio, I heard an announcement that President Obama was appointing a gentleman to be named the compensation czar, and that kind of threw me. Being an old criminal law trial judge, I remember the drug czars of the past. I remember I think a couple of Homeland Security czars. But I never had heard of a compensation czar.

So I started to look into it, and I always thought it was kind of peculiar for a democratic country to even use the term "czar." But others adopted it ahead of time, so I have no criticism of using the term "czar," though I think if you look up "czar" in the dictionary, you will find out the most popular version is a form of the Russian totally autocratic emperors of the old Imperial Russia. To me, I think it sounds a little funny for us to be comparing ourselves with that failed system. But, you know, I can't criticize it too much, because we have had multiple folks that have had the name "czar."

Exactly what are these czars that we create in this country? Well, the best I have been able to determine, these are people who are hired members of the executive branch of the government, but they are not like Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare or Secretary of Labor. But they are given sort of absolute authority in their field to give direction to the government and to advise the President as his personal kind of alter-Cabinet, if you will.

Now, the first thing that comes to mind when you wonder about that is, you say now, wait a minute, all these secretaries that become members of the Cabinet, they have to be confirmed by the Senate. Constitutionally, it is required that they be confirmed by the Senate.

We have these confirmation battles in every administration, and actually some issues have come up this time which caused people to withdraw their names before the issue of whether or not they be confirmed, for reasons like they didn't pay their taxes or some other reason that they felt they didn't want to go through that kind of an onerous process of getting to be the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State, Secretary of Commerce or whatever Secretary it may be, which for a long time has been the historical heads of departments of the executive branch of the Federal Government. But now we have these new guys that are going to be czars.

Now, it wasn't so hard to figure out when you said, well, you have got an Attorney General who is one of the Cabinet members, and he is confirmed by the Senate, just like the Constitution requires, and to have somebody who is totally focusing on the drug fight that we have. Maybe that might not be such a bad idea. So that is kind of the first concept of czar that I can